

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
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<p>15. SUMMARY:</p> <p>(U) This IR provides first indications regarding forthcoming construction of the Salto Grande Dam and Hydro Electric project. The dam will be located on the Uruguay River approximately 17 kilometers north of Concordia (31-24S, 58-02W) on the Argentine-Uruguayan border. Realization of the project, first conceived in 1946 but scheduled finally to begin in 1972, will result in a highly important economic infrastructure project which will reportedly produce as much as 50 percent more energy than that of the immense CHOCON-CERROS COLORADO project.</p>		<p>(Leave Blank)</p> <p>602220 } ARMY 603200 } 105436 } 814513 } 814511 } ARMY 601230 }</p>
<p>1. <u>Current Status of Project:</u> The proposed Salto Grande dam, a project administered by the Argentine Ministry of Public Works and Services, will be opened to construction bids by late 1971. The present project schedule calls for the actual construction to begin sometime in 1972. It is envisioned that the entire project will take approximately seven years to complete. Construction activities will be under the supervision of the Argentine-Uruguayan Mixed Technical Commission.</p>		
<p>2. <u>Location of the Project:</u> The dam will be constructed on the Uruguay River approximately 17 kilometers north of CONCORDIA in ENTRE RIOS province. The dam will open the Uruguay River which serves as the boundary line between ARGENTINA and URUGUAY and thus will be located in both countries (see sketch map)</p>		
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<p>3. <u>Construction Involved in the Project:</u> In addition to the dam and the hydroelectric turbines it will contain, the SALTO GRANDE project consists of several important adjuncts. Running across the top of the dam will be the international rail and highway BENTOS-UNZUE bridge which will connect Argentina and Uruguay. Also of significant importance is the navigable canal which will be constructed in the vicinity of the dam to enable river traffic on the Uruguay river to continue above CONCORDIA. Further, it has been estimated that the construction of the dam will create a lake of variable width which will extend some 140 kilometers in length or all the way to the BRAZILIAN border. It has been estimated that 1,500,000 meters of reinforced concrete will be needed to construct the dam.</p> <p>4. <u>Technical Aspects:</u> The dam's 12 hydroelectric turbines, which will each have a 135 megawatt capacity, will give the dam a total capability of generating 1,620 megawatts. This means that the dam will produce some 6,410,000,000 kilowatt hours each year.</p> <p>5. <u>Funding the Project:</u> The total cost of the project has been estimated to be \$500 million dollars (a figure which has been confirmed by the Embassy Economics Section). This cost will be divided between Argentina and Uruguay in accordance with the percentage of</p>		
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electrical power each country consumes. For planning purposes that figure is 90% for ARGENTINA and 10% for URUGUAY. Financial plans at this time call for a \$160 million dollar loan from the Interamerican Development Bank, and \$270<sup>million</sup> dollars in Argentine funds from the Argentine National Bank of Development.

6. Importance of the Project: This project, comparable in size and scope with the famed CHOCON-CERROS COLORADOS scheme, is of utmost importance because of the impetus for development that it will provide for the littoral areas of both Argentina and Uruguay. The magnitude of the power, with energy output estimated to be 50% higher than that of CHOCON-CERROS COLORADOS, will most certainly stimulate industrial growth when industrial growth is vital to the interests of both nations. Auxillary benefits of flood control and irrigation potential have not yet been calculated.

COMMENTS: The close coordination and cooperation required on a project of this magnitude would indicate that the Argentine and Uruguayan governments are maintaining amiable relations. This project also points out the Argentine Revolutionary government's intention to make good on the promise made in 1966 to develop the country's interior and peripheral provinces.

Particularly interesting is the fact that this scheme links up with the APIPE-YACYRETA Dam Complex on the Parana River (IR 6 804 0037 71).

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